norms for assistance from the NCCF. The other assistance provided by the Government of India include free transportation of drinking water & fodder by the Railways, allocation of foodgrains free of cost under Food For Work Programme (FFWP), handing over of exploratory tube-wells for drinking water purposes and relaxation in norms under schemes implemented by Department of Drinking Water Supply.

Impact of China's membership of WTO on Indian Agriculture

†2080. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian agricultural production and marketing is likely to be affected by China joining the World Trade Organization; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken to save agricultural sector from its ill-effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As China has joined World Trade Organisation (WTO) only recently it is too early to predict the likely impact on Indian Agricultural Production and Marketing. However, *prima-facie*, it is felt that it will not have much impact as India and China have already been exchanging most favoured nation treatment and because the concessions had to be given unilaterally by China on entry to WTO and no reciprocal commitments were involved on the part of India or any other WTO Member.

Remunerative price for soyabean in A.P.

2081. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the share of Andhra Pradesh in the production of soyabean in the country during the last three years year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that soyabean farmers of the State are not getting remunerative prices for the produce; and

(c) what action Government have taken to provide remunerative prices to soyabean producers and to increase its production in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The share of Andhra Padesh in

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

the production of soyabean in the country during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 was 0.24%, 0.20% and 0.22% respectively.

(b) and (c) In order to protect the interests of the soyabean farmers including those in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the Government announces the Minimum Support Price (MSP), *inter-alia* for Soyabean every year. In case the market price of soyabean falls below the MSP, NAFED acts as the central nodal agency to undertake price support operations by procuring soyabean from the farmers at MSP under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). NAFED procured 12093 and 1435 tonnes of soyabean during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively from the farmers in Andhra Pradesh under PSS. To increase the production of soyabean a centrally sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is being implemented. Under the programme, various incentives are provided to the farmers for increasing the production of soyabean which includes distribution of seeds, minikits, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture and Phosphate Solvalising Bacteria (PSB), micro-nutrients etc. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst farmers, frontline demonstrations are organized by the I.C.A.R. Besides, block and integrated pest management demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture.

Remunerative price of cotton

2082. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton growers in various States, including Gujarat, are not getting remunerative price for their crop and a large number of farmers are reported to have committed suicide;

(b) if so, the number of such cases during the last two years; and

(c) the remedial action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) During the current season (2001-02) prices, in certain centres of some of the States including Gujarat for certain varieties of cotton, have fallen below the Minimum Support Price (MSP). However, no report of suicide has been reported due to cotton farmers not getting remunerative prices.